The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at Be My Guest across from Mullins Crossing

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Elaine Attaway
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt and **Joe Bert**

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Volume 14, Number 6 **THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** **June, 2014**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

May, 2014 Show at Columbia County Expo Ctr. huge success!

Club Meeting Calendar for 2014

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	**June 19**	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Successful Show at New site a hopeful harbinger for future club events

Morning attendance at Club Show was strong on both days

The new Columbia County Expo Center is an attractive facility and virtually all patrons and dealers alike approved the decision the Augusta Coin Club Executive Board made to move its show to the new location. The hall is not only quite spacious but also extremely well lit. Thanks to General Show Chairman, David Chism's tireless efforts along with help from the many of our members who assisted with the set-up, manning the Welcome Desk and the take down at the end of the event, our May 9-10 show turned out to be a huge success. The club netted over $1,220 at a time when the high monthly rental had begun to impact the club's coffers. With all expenses paid, Treasurer Elaine Attaway reported at the May 15 meeting that we now have a treasury balance of $7,362.32.

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Collecting the US Coins of 1919: 95 Years Ago

By Arno Safran

The obverses of a certified 1919 year set
From Left to right: top Walking Liberty half, Standing Liberty quarter, Mercury dime, Indian Head nickel and Lincoln cent
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 150%]

The year 1919 began with President Woodrow Wilson being extolled here in America and` by the victorious nations of Europe following World War I. From late January on the President would be met with one disappointment after another, first from the European leaders' opposition of Wilson's 14 points that allowed for a conciliatory position towards Germany and later here at home with the refusal of the US Senate to ratify America's entrance to the League of Nations, this despite approval by over two-thirds of the American people. In late September, President Wilson suffered a debilitating stroke and was never the same. The US coinage of 1919 reflects more America's optimism for peaceful relations with other nations than the post war politics of the times. The five denominations struck that year were represented by some of the finest artistic design types the world had ever seen, the superb Walking Liberty half-dollar, Standing Liberty quarter and *Mercury* dime along with, the Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel referred to as "the most American of coins" and finally the Lincoln cent.

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Collecting the US Coins of 1919: 95 Years Ago

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

The reverses of a certified 1919 year set
From Left to right: top Walking Liberty half, Standing Liberty quarter, Mercury dime, Buffalo nickel and Lincoln cent
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 150%]

Due to America's entry into World War I in 1917, all gold coinage was suspended for three years, 1917, 1918 and 1919. As a result, for those collectors wishing to assemble year sets from this period, only five denominations are required, the cent thru the half-dollar. Of the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints then in operation, the largest mintages usually came from the Philadelphia facility with occasional exceptions depending on the denomination. In 1919, all but the half dollar received huge mintages at the Philadelphia Mint but despite a mintage of only 962,000 for the 1919-P Walking Liberty half compared with 1.1 million for the Denver and 1.5 million for the San Francisco issues, the 1919-P is the least expensive of the three Mints in all grades.

A 1919-P Lincoln cent graded MS-65 Red by PCGS
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 200%]

One would think that the 1919-P Lincoln cent, with a whopping mintage of over 392 million pieces--***a record for the denomination that would not be surpassed until 1940***--would be one of the most available and least expensive cents to acquire in uncirculated condition. Until recently it was, but with the record number of serious collectors that became attracted to coin collecting since 1999 due to the state quarter release, examples of certified MS-65 RD 1919-P Lincoln cents surface a lot less frequently--***even at the major shows***--than they once did. For the many years, rolls of 1919-P uncirculated cents have been "cherry picked" by dealers with the result that finding individual high-end MS-64 or 65 Red gems are no longer as plentiful as` they were a quarter of a century ago. The specimen shown above was acquired at the South Carolina Numismatic Association Convention held in Greenville, SC back in October, 2013. In 1919, a cent had the purchasing power of 14 cents.

A 1919-P Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel graded MS-64 by NGC
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 200%]

The 5c nickel was the workhorse of the US economy for about 100 years, from the last 35 years of the 19th century thru the first 65 years of the 20th. For almost that length of time, one way carfare for most urban transportation was a nickel as were a number of other items such as a candy bar, a one-scoop ice cream cone, or a Coke or a Pepsi, (***examples that immediately come to mind***.) In the early years of the 20th Century, before the movies became the new '"rage" people would insert a nickel into the nickelodeon to watch the "flicks" ***(which is probably how the synonym for picture show originated.)*** Looking through a small double lens of the nickelodeon, viewers would literally see the moving pictures flick by. The 5c nickel coin could buy so many things during the early 20th century that today; most of the branch mint issues of early Buffalo nickels have become extremely scarce and expansive in uncirculated grades. Fortunately for the collector, the large mintages of Buffalo nickels produced at the Philadelphia mint make it possible to acquire many dates up thru MS-64. With a mintage of well over 60 million, the 1919-P nickel shown above is still moderately priced today.

A 1919-P *Mercury* dime graded MS-64 Full Bands by PCGS
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 200%]

As with the 1919 Buffalo nickel, the 1919-P *Mercury* dime is considered a common date, even with full bands on the reverse. The reported mintage was 35.7 million as compared with just under 10 million for the 1919-D and 8.5 million for the 1919-S. In the lower grades**,** (from Good-4 to Fine-12)**,** the prices between the three Mints are still fairly low at no more than several dollars apart. From VF-20 to AU-50 however, the branch mint issues begin to pull away due to their greater scarcity resulting in much higher prices than the 1919-P. At the upper end of the grading scale, (from AU-58 thru MS-65) the price gap between the two branch mint issues and Philadelphia Mint output are enormous leaving the 1919-P as the only moderately priced option for moderate income collector to consider.

In 1919, a dime had the purchasing power of $1.35 today. It was post war inflationary year. A dime could buy one a loaf of bread, two oranges or 3 bananas. Two dimes could get you half a pound of bacon. Three dimes were needed to purchase 2 lbs. of flank steak.

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Collecting the US Coins of 1919: 95 Years Ago

(Continued from previous page)

A 1919-P Standing Liberty quarter graded MS-64 by Anacs
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 200%]

Slightly more than 11 million quarters were struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1919 compared with only 1.9 million produced at the Denver Mint and 1.8 million at the San Francisco facility. These figures all pale when compared with the almost 670 million quarters featuring our national parks produced at the Philadelphia Mint in 2013. As with the cent, nickel and dime, the survival rate for the branch mint quarters have been poor with the result that the higher grade issues are` expensive. This leaves the 1919 P as the only affordable choice because it is a fairly common date. The coin usually boasts a sharp strike in the bargain and is affordable for many collectors up thru MS-64 similar to the example shown above.

In 1919, a quarter had the purchasing power of almost $3.50 today. When I was` a boy, my maternal grandfather used to give mew a quarter if I answered his question, "Have you been behaving yourself?" in the affirmative, With a quick nod in the head I usually received a Washington quarter. I don't recall ever got a Standing Liberty one except, a few years later, I noticed one in my mother's large glass jar filled with lots of coin. Gleaming through the jar was this obsolete, piece. It turned out to be a 1920, a very common date.

A 1919-P Walking Liberty Half-dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 150%]

The Walking Liberty Half-dollar designed by Adolph A. Weinman is arguably one of our three most beautiful silver coins. In 1919, a half dollar had the purchasing power of $6.75 and it circulated. That year, the Philadelphia Mint actually struck the fewest halves of the three US Mints, only 962 thousand. It would be one of only nine dates from the entire series (1916-1947) with less than a million struck. The Denver Mint produced 1,165,000 and the San Francisco Mint, 1,552,000 that year but despite these slightly higher mintages, uncirculated examples are even scarcer than the low mintage 1919-P and extremely pricey. Even the 1919-P half in MS-63 is expensive. The example shown was acquired at the 2013 BRNA Convention held in Dalton, GA by selling a number of other coins of lesser value.

When Theodore Roosevelt was President (1901-1909) he found our coinage designs rather dull and desired that they reflect a more artistic quality. He asked Augusta Saint-Gaudens, America's most renowned sculptor at the time to redesign our two highest coinage denominations, of which` the birth of the $20.00 double eagle in 1907 was praised as one of the finest coins in world history. Sadly, Saint-Gaudens died that year but he had plenty of worthy disciples, among them, Bela Lyon Pratt, designer of the $5.00 and $2.50 gold Indian coins (1908) Victor David Brenner, designer of the Lincoln cent, (1909), James` Earle Fraser, designer of the Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel in 1913, Hermon MacNeil, designer of the Standing Liberty Quarter (1916) and Adolph A. Weinman, who designed both the *Mercury* dime and Walking Liberty Half-dollar, (also 1916). With the addition of the Peace dollar designed by Anthony de Francisci in 1921, the era from 1907 thru 1935 came to be known as America's golden age of coinage.

A 1919 certified year set showing the obverses above the reverses from the half-dollar to the cent
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 150%]

1919 was a year of transition between the Victorian era styles and mores towards a more independent social life. The year provided the transition to the "Roaring Twenties". Jazz was fast becoming the new musical style that excited a war weary nation. By 1919, rapid transit, with trolley cars, elevated trains and subways were fast replacing the horse and buggy, especially in the larger urban areas. The automobile was becoming a new way of life throughout the nation. An inexpensive car cost $500. Unions were beginning to test their power in the work force with a number of strikes.

In sports, 1919 was the year that Jack Dempsey became heavyweight champion of the world by defeating big Jess Willard in a` 4th Round TKO. The most shocking sports event of the year was the defeat of the favored Chicago White Sox by the Cincinnati Red in the World Series which would be exposed in 1920 as the notorious "Black sox Scandal". It ended the career of Shoeless Joe Jackson of "Say, it a'int so, Joe" fame, who was considered at the time as great a player of Ty Cobb.

Collecting a US year set of certified uncirculated 1919 coinage was a challenge but extremely rewarding.

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Be My Guest by President, Steve Nix. We had 44 members and 3 guests.

Secretary's Report:
The April 17, 2014 minutes was read and approved.

Treasurer's Report from Elaine Attaway was read and approved. We have $7,362.32 deposited in the checking account. Expenses included 2014 Coin Tokens. Revenue was 50/50 drawing and income from our coin show.

Prize Winners:
Winner of the 50/50 raffle was John Attaway ($65.00).
Janice Wren won a 2014 Silver Eagle and Gary James won a 1961 Franklin Half Dollar.

Spring Coin Show May 9th (Friday) and May 10th (Saturday) 2014: David Chism – Bourse Chairman. The Spring Augusta Coin Show was held at Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. The show made a profit of $1,221.00. Special thanks were given to Larry Lucree for his ad in the newspaper and David Chism for all of his hard work. Thanks were given to all the members that helped at the show and we had 303 people signed in for two days. 43 tables were sold. 2014 ACC Spring Coin Show Raffle Winners: 1st Prize – 1/10 ounce gold eagle - ticket bought by Walter Davenport he donated prize to YN. Prize received by ticket drawer – Taylor Bash – 11 years old. 2nd Prize –MS63 Morgan Dollar – Heidi. 3rd Prize – Silver Proof Set – Kames Creech. 4th Prize Silver Eagle – Lenny S. 5th Prize – Franklin Half Dollar – Augusta Coin Exchange.

The Program: Arno Safran gives a PowerPoint Program on models who posed for our coinage.

Coin Token: Our 2014 Augusta Coin Token will show the image of the Boyhood Home of Woodrow Wilson. Antique copper, antique bronze and silver wash, 3 types of metals: One for $10.00 each or 3 for $28.00.

Old Business: We had 3 juniors draw for the junior box.

New Business: Dues for the 2014 year will be $15.00. Please pay your dues.
Glenn Sanders ran the auction (12 members). Shelley and Connie delivered the goods as the auction was carried on therefore speeding the auction up. Bids recorder was David Chism.
Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway

More Club News

At the May 15 meeting, President Nix announced that due to the annual expense involved in the printing and mailing of the club newsletter to a small group of members, starting with the June, 2014 issue, the newsletter would only be sent out digitally via E-mail. He asked the members to print out a color copy and bring it the meeting. That way, all 2014 paid members will not be denied a copy of the monthly newsletter.

Speaking of paid 2014 fiscal year membership, according to the latest records received from Treasurer Elaine Attaway, the following membership numbers have not paid their 2014 dues and some are ACC Board members**: #19, #21, #38, #40, #41, #45, #50, #52, #54, #57, #58, #62, #66, , #69, #73, #84, , #87, , #91, , #93, , #95, #96, #97, #105, , #113, #114, , #120, , #123, #127, , #131, , #142, #149, #150, , #156, and #158.** If you see your number listed above and has definitely paid, please inform Treasurer Attaway by the June 19 meeting or send an E-mail to editor, Arno Safran at arnosafran@comcast.net. Starting in July, all non-paid 2014 membership numbers will be removed from the club register and E-mail listing.

Our next meeting will be held on **June 19, 2014** at **Be My Guest**; starting time 7:00 PM, early arrivals, from 6:00 on. Please bring in something for **Show and Tell**, perhaps a new acquisition from our recently held coin show. **Our upcoming program** will be given by another talented Young Numismatist, Shelby Plooster who will present a PowerPoint program **on "Commemorative Coins of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics." Our monthly auction** conducted by Glenn Sanders will follow.

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